

What is claimed is:

1. A method for excluding the entry of debris into the outer seal (17) of the sealing system of a shaft passing through the hull of a maritime vessel to the exterior side thereof, in which method flushing water is introduced to the immediate vicinity of the outer seal from an internal water source of the vessel, **characterized** in that the flushing flow thus established is directed substantially radially toward the shaft and is uniformly distributed about the periphery of the shaft.
- 10 2. A device for excluding the entry of debris into the outer seal (17) of the sealing system of a shaft passing through the hull of a maritime vessel to the exterior side thereof, **characterized** in that said device comprises a member (1) including an internal flow distribution duct (25) and at least one opening (22) exiting from said distribution duct toward the periphery of said shaft, as well as means (2, 4, 5) for feeding flushing water into said internal flow distribution duct from an internal water source of the vessel.
- 15 3. The device of claim 2, **characterized** in that the device has a plurality of said exit openings (22) of different sizes.
- 20 4. The device of claim 2 or 3, **characterized** in that said internal flow distribution duct (25) includes at least one constriction for establishing a uniformly distributed flushing water flow.